

Adams County  
Free Press  
Corning, IA  
Circ. 2152  
From Page:  
1  
6/16/2005  
45590



# 108 Planning to help make Adams County a "Great Place?" Think about this:

The date is set: TONIGHT!  
June 16. The time is fixed: 6:30  
p.m. The location has been  
determined: Corning  
Community Center. All we  
need now is you and your ideas.  
What will make Adams County  
a "great place"? We want to  
look at A) What we already have  
in Adams County that makes us  
a great place; B) What people  
are already working on to  
improve our great place; C)  
What else we need to do or add  
to make us even better.

We have been challenged that  
a great place has 7 dimensions.  
We will be looking at those  
dimensions as we put together  
our information about Adams  
County.

- 1: A Unique Sense of Place
- 2: Engaging Experiences
- 3: A Rich Social Fabric
- 4: A Vital Economy
- 5: A Pleasing Environment
- 6: A Strong Foundation
- 7: A Creative Culture

When I look at this list, it  
makes me ask more questions.

So let's look a little deeper at  
each of these dimensions and try  
to better understand what each  
dimension is describing. At our  
meeting, we will not be going  
over each dimension, question  
by question. However, we hope  
that by looking at each dimen-  
sion in depth, we can bring our  
ideas into better focus and really  
look at the breadth of character  
and amenities we already have  
as well as the opportunities for  
growth we choose to move for-  
ward on.

**Dimension 1: A Unique  
Sense of Place** values historical  
roots while embracing a shared  
vision which welcomes,  
includes and involves both  
natives and newcomers. How

do we study and preserve infor-  
mation about the history of  
Adams County and its people?  
What are the most unique iden-  
tifying characteristics of Adams  
County? How do we welcome  
visitors and newcomers?

**Continued on page 9**



What are we doing to preserve and promote our history? What are the areas of leadership in our County? Is there evidence of pride in our community? How is it shown? What are the first impressions of visitors to Adams County? Is there evidence of growth or change over the past 3-5 years?

**Dimension 2: Engaging Experiences** provides and supports authentic, credible and varied opportunities for individual and community expression, interaction and common experiences. How many artists and/or arts organizations are there in Adams County? What are the physical and recreational opportunities available in Adams County and who uses and doesn't use them? What activities are there for people to engage in which are creative, artistic, reflective, physical, recreational, intellectual, fun and rewarding? What are the opportunities for life-long learning? What festivals, events or other activities occur on a regular or annual basis? What fun events or activities are available to adults, children, families, singles, young adults, seniors, teenagers, etc? What amenities and attractions are in Adams County, including parks, shopping, restaurants, etc? What evidence of growth or change in engaging experiences have happened in the past 3-5 years?

**Dimension 3: A Rich Social Fabric** promotes and encourages social interaction, both formal and informal, throughout the County with equal opportunities for all people to participate. Who are the people of Adams County? What diversity exists? What are the formal groups that bring people together? What are the informal groups? How are these gatherings formed or communicated? Are they inclusive or exclusive? How do we welcome newcomers? How do we honor, value and involve the diverse population? What are our organizational leadership areas both governmental and

non-governmental? How does decision-making occur and how are people involved in decision making? What areas of growth or change have occurred in our social fabric in the past 3-5 years?

**Dimension 4: A Vital Economy** contains a balanced, growing, transformative mix of rewarding jobs and sustaining capital. What are the employment opportunities in Adams County and what mix of jobs do they offer? What are the mix of small businesses and large businesses? What is the mix of non-profits, individual entrepreneurs, corporations, manufacturing, basic services, etc. Is there evidence of progressive, innovative employers? Is there evidence of family-friendly and community-involved employers? Is there an industrial park, venture capital, an organization or group who works to recruit opportunities? Does Adams County support and encourage entrepreneurial endeavors? Is there evidence that local businesses and financial institutions invest in Adams County? Are there employment opportunities for diverse populations? How is Adams County contributing to Iowa's creative economy? What evidence of growth or change is there in Adams County's economy over the last 3-5 years?

**Dimension 5: A Pleasing Environment** offers clean, healthy and accessible natural and built environments that enhance the quality of life. What are the natural benefits of Adams County? What are the built environments – residential areas, streetscapes, business districts, etc? What systems are in place to protect and sustaining clean water, air and health living for those who live, work and visit Adams County? What is our growth plan that addresses a balance? What organized efforts are in place to develop and maintain the pleasing environment of Adams County? What existing or planned public

art is in Adams County? Who makes decisions about design, both natural and built in Adams County? What is unique about Adams County's natural and built environments and how are they accessible to all who live, work or visit? What public spaces exist in Adams County and what are their mixed-use possibilities? What is evidence of growth or change in Adams County's environment over the past 3-5 years?

**Dimension 6: A Strong Foundation** contains infrastructure that is available, accessible and responsive to everyone – the entire social fabric. What are Adams County vehicular and pedestrian transportation systems? What is the housing mix in Adams County? What directional signage welcome people and assist them in moving through Adams County? What planning or improvements are taking place? What are the mixed uses of public spaces, system and structures? How has quality of life affected Adams County's infrastructure? What are the plans for upkeep and access in public spaces, systems and structures? What is the evidence that your public spaces are well used and well maintained? What is the evidence that Adams County has public support for improvements and upkeep? What is evidence of growth or change in Adams County's infrastructures over the past 3-5 years?

**Dimension 7: Creative Culture** displays a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas, based on a diverse and inclusive cultural mosaic. What examples of creative problem-solving has been used in Adams County? What does Adams County do to support creative entrepreneurs and outreach to new ones? How are creative ideas encouraged in Adams County? What shows growth or change in Adams County's creative culture over the past 3-5 years?

Adams County  
Free Press  
Corning, IA  
Circ. 2152  
From Page:  
9  
6/16/2005  
45590

